

families. The 'superorder' Odontoholcæ embraces the family Hesperornithidæ, of the Middle Cretaceous of Kansas and Colorado, and provisionally the Enaliornithidæ of the Upper Greensand. Both groups are considered as probably ancestral forms of the Pygopodes.—J. A. A.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

THOMAS EDWARDS SLEVIN, an Associate of the American Ornithologist's Union, died at his home in San Francisco on December 23, 1902, in his 32nd year. He was born in New York City on January 20, 1871. A year of his early childhood was spent in France. In 1878 he removed with his parents to San Francisco. He came of a race of students, both on his mother's side, Bruguière, and on his father's side. His father, Thomas Edwards Slevin, LL. D., was vice-president of the Geographical Society of the Pacific.

The genius to make collections was strongly developed in the Slevin family. Mr. Slevin's grandfather gathered a large library, and his father collected the Slevin Library of works relating chiefly to the Pacific coast — now a part of the public library of San Francisco.

Mr. Slevin's interest in birds dated from his thirteenth year, when he made his first attempt at forming a collection. In later years, he attained a very high degree of skill in the preparation of specimens; in the smaller birds, his specimens, for durability and beauty of finish, are not excelled by the work of the leading preparators in this country. To the very last he was eager to improve in his methods. His collection of birds numbered about three thousand specimens, and was built up in leisure moments after office hours, on holidays, and during vacations. It is now incorporated with the study series of the California Academy of Sciences and is a monument to his earnest effort.